

Regional Significance: These sites contain communities or species that are represented elsewhere in the state by better quality examples, but which are among the outstanding examples in their geographic region of the state. Normally, the geographic region considered includes at least the counties immediately surrounding the county the site is located in.

County Significance: Sites that do not rank of regional significance, but which are significant biological resources at the county level. These may include sites with a good example of a fairly common community type, a species that is rare in the state but widespread in other parts of the nation or in neighboring states, or a site that has been greatly reduced from its original quality but which still has significance.

Names of natural community types correspond to those in Classification of the Natural Communities of North Carolina: Third Approximation (Schafale and Weakley, 1990). Rare plant species names and statuses are as listed in the Natural Heritage Program List of the Rare Plant Species of North Carolina (Amoroso, 1999). Watch List plant species -- those which are generally uncommon and which may be determined to be rare in the future -- appear in some descriptions and are described more completely by Amoroso (1999). Rare animal species names and statuses are from the Natural Heritage Program List of the Rare Animals of North Carolina (LeGrand and Hall, 1999). Updated site boundary and rare species location information is maintained at the NC NHP in a Geographic Information System (GIS) in ARCVIEW format. The information is also kept in ARCVIEW at the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) in Raleigh and the western regional office of CGIA in Asheville.